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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

23 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
First and Constitution Avenue, NE
Room 493
Washington, D.C. 20510

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APR 12 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Robb:

This is in reply to your letter of February 5, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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Honorable Charles S. Robb

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Congressional

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM

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LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300521	02/10/93	02/05/93	02/23/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Charles Robb	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/LMM			

5-10-93

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/10/93			

REMARKS:

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CHARLES S. ROBB
VIRGINIA

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PRB
92-235
521

February 5, 1993

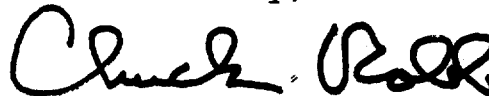
Mr. James Quello
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

My office has been contacted by several Virginia constituents regarding proposed regulations by the FCC. I am enclosing a copy of the correspondence I have received.

I would appreciate it very much if you could review this information. Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Robb

CSR/tmh

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310 First Street SW Suite 102
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(703) 985-0103

The Honorable Charles Robb
The United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Robb,

I am very concerned about the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies already assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band, a band primarily used for private Land Mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the Land Mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. Now the FCC wants to create more Land Mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many Land Mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. Many thousands of dollars of radio control equipment owned by members of my club will be rendered useless.

When we fly our model airplanes we go through great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the assigned radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly reduced. Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet, weigh as much as 30-40 pounds and fly at a high rate of speed. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We need the use of our full compliment of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek to allocate more radio frequencies for Land Mobile users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people (voters) like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,

R. Beckman

manager

Doug's Hobby Shop